million litres per day and 1 million litres per day capacities. The scheme also includes other works such as construction of 36 units of low cost toilets, river front development of 8 ghats, 9 units of improved wood crematoria, renovation of 4 ponds, afforestation and public participation & public awareness. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 41.60 crore so far to this project.

The project at Nasik and Trimabakeshwar are targeted for completion by March 2003, before the commencement of ensuing Kumbh Mela.

Protection of natural forest of Andamans

2554. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the action taken to protect the natural forests of Andamans, being exploited by the saw mills?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The Supreme Court, in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 202/95 has issued various directions for conservation and protection of natural forests of Andaman & Nicobar Islands which, *inter alia*, include the following:

(a) Ban on felling of trees from the forest of Little Andaman, national parks, sanctuaries and tribal reserves. For other areas, revised working plans will be submitted to the Court.

(b) No felling of trees shall be permitted for meeting any raw material requirement of the plywood, veneer, black board, match sticks or any other wood based industries.

(c) The licences of all the saw mills and wood-based industries shall not be renewed after 31st March, 2003, however, these units are permitted to exhaust the existing stock till 31st March, 2003. Henceforth for meeting the local requirement only the Government saw mills shall operate.

In view of the above directions of Supreme Court, there is no threat to natural forests of Andamans to be exploited by the saw mills.

Conservation of Hussain Sagar Lake

2555. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hussain Sagar Lake at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh has been covered under the National Lake Conservation Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken so far, to clean and conserve this important lake, which can be developed as a potential tourism attraction of Hyderabad?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Hussain Sagar lake at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh is one of the identified lakes under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). However, no Central Assistance for this lake has been provided as the Government of Andhra Pradesh took up the cleaning and conservation works under the "Water Supply and Sanitation Project' with World Bank Assistance. The works pertaining to lake conservation were completed by March, 1998. The details of works undertaken are as under:—

(i) Diversion of sewage from 6 nallas to nearby sewers.

(ii) A trunk sewer of 15 kilometre length.

(iii) A sewage treatment plant of 20 million litres per day capacity, the treated sewage from which is utilised for maintaining the water levels in the lake.

With the completion of these works, water quality of the lake has improved, the odour nuisance has disappeared and algal blooms have been reduced.

Disposal of bio-medical waste in Delhi

2556. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that thousands of health care units in the capital are dumping their bio-medical waste in the city's municipal garbage bins;

(b) if so, whether environmental pollution in the capital is increasing as a result thereof;

(c) if so, whether CPCB has not taken any concrete action against the defaulters of the dumping norms; and